

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording head comprising:
  - a substrate;
  - a first conductive layer provided on the substrate;
  - an insulating layer provided on the first conductive layer;
  - a second conductive layer formed on the insulating insulating layer and coming into contact with the first conductive layer; and
  - a heat generation layer disposed on the second conductive layer and having, on a surface thereof, a self-oxidized protective film as an ink-contact interface.
2. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording head according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said the first and second conductive layers is metal which includes, as a principal component, aluminum or aluminum alloy.
3. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording head according to claim 1, wherein said the heat generation layer is a TaSiO film.
4. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording head comprising:
  - a substrate;
  - a first conductive layer provided on the substrate;

- an insulating layer provided on the first conductive layer;
- a second conductive layer formed on the insulating layer and coming into contact with said the first conductive layer; and
- a heat generation layer disposed on said the second conductive layer and having, on a surface thereof, a self-oxidized protective film as an ink-contact interface,  
wherein a portion is formed, which portion alleviates a stepped portion formed by an edge of said the second conductive layer and said the insulating layer.
5. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording head according to claim 4, wherein at least one of said the first and second conductive layers is metal which includes, as a principal component, aluminum or aluminum alloy.
6. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording head according to claim 4, wherein said the heat generation layer is a TaSiO film.
7. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording head according to claim 4, wherein said the step-difference alleviating portion is formed by laminated insulating films comprised of different compositions formed on said the second conductive layer.
8. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording cartridge equipped with an ink-jet recording head comprising:

a substrate;  
a first conductive layer provided on the substrate;  
an insulating layer provided on the first conductive layer;  
a second conductive layer formed on the insulting insulating layer and coming into contact with the first conductive layer; and  
a heat generation layer disposed on the second conductive layer and having, on a surface thereof, a self-oxidized protective film as an ink-contact interface.

9. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording cartridge according to claim 8, wherein, in the ink-jet recording head, a portion is formed, which portion alleviates a stepped portion formed by an edge of said the second conductive layer and said the insulating layer.

10. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording device equipped with an ink-jet recording cartridge equipped with an ink-jet recording head comprising:  
a substrate;  
a first conductive layer provided on the substrate;  
an insulating layer provided on the first conductive layer;  
a second conductive layer formed on the insulting insulating layer and coming into contact with the first conductive layer; and  
a heat generation layer disposed on the second conductive layer and having, on a surface thereof, a self-oxidized protective film as an ink-contact interface.

11. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording device according to claim 10, wherein, in the ink-jet recording head, a portion is formed, which portion alleviates a stepped portion formed by an edge of ~~said the~~ second conductive layer and ~~said the~~ insulating layer.